

# THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society      Berkeley, California      Volume 72      Number 2      February 1990

## THE BAY AREA IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE: 1,000,000 SHOREBIRDS CAN'T BE WRONG

Sandwiched in the middle of our wetland series, the February 8th meeting in Berkeley will feature a panel discussion of wetlands and other San Francisco Bay-related issues. Three aspects of these issues will be presented by **Bill Tuohy**, of the SF Estuary Project, **Barry Nelson** of the Save SF Bay Association, and GGAS' own **Art Feinstein**. Following a fifteen minute presentation by each speaker there will be time for audience questions and interaction.

In his slide presentation, Bill Tuohy will describe some of the environmental issues that confront the SF Bay-Delta estuary, and will introduce the Estuary Project, a five year cooperative program, established by EPA to develop effective management of the estuary and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources. Barry Nelson is an authority on instream flow and water diversion issues. Art Feinstein, as Conservation Chairman and past GGAS President, has provided leadership on wetland issues.

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## THE CHALLENGE OF GROWTH

(Based on a transcript of the keynote address by Paul R. Erlich at the NAS Convention in Tucson, Sept. 22, 1989)

Over the years, I have thought of Audubon as an association always on the right side of environmental issues; one that had, as many environmental organizations do not, a good strong population program. As a dedicated birder, I knew that Audubon put out by far the best of all birding magazines. (If you don't know *American Birds*, you should because it is absolutely fantastic.) Since I have joined the board, I have learned that there is a superb staff working very hard on a huge array of issues, and I have found that the Audubon Society has an excellent scientific research program. That program provides credibility to the stands that National Audubon takes on issues. Those may be the last pleasant things I say this evening, as I am supposed to talk about the state of the world.

It is nice for me to be in Arizona, where, as a biologist, I have done a lot of field work. It is biologically one of the most interesting states in the union. But I am still appalled by the state of the public lands and some of the private lands in this state.

*(continued on page 23)*

## MEETING

San Francisco Bay's wetlands are crucial to shorebirds—sandpipers, avocets, stilts and phalaropes—and thousands of waterfowl—ducks and geese—that migrate to and from their summer and winter homes. Over one million shorebirds use the Bay ecosystem every year. The Bay is the West Coast's largest estuary, drains 40% of the state, is a nursery for many kinds of fish, and is a key link in the Pacific Flyway.

Yet, something is wrong with this picture: Over half of the estuary's historic freshwater flow has been diverted. Toxic chemicals from over 100 sources enter the Bay and Delta. Over 90% of the estuary's original tidal wetlands have been destroyed. Fish populations have drastically declined.

For all these reasons, wetlands and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem have been a major focus of GGAS' conservation efforts. For example, last year we raised \$17,000 in our "wetlands fund-raiser". The money was put in a special fund to be used to protect wetlands through purchase or litigation. Become more informed on these issues by attending our program, **Feb. 8, 1990** in Berkeley. The program will begin at **7:30** at the Northbrae Community Church at 941 The Alameda.

—JOELLA BUFFA  
Program Chairman

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Dec. 13, 1989 Anna Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoelman led 18 birders on a GGAS field trip to Lake Merritt and Laney Ponds. They report that the lake

was very low, with water being withheld at Laney Channel flood gates. Laney Channel did not have much water. Weather was good; cool to start but warming by noon for a good day of birding. Forty-nine species were seen:	
Pied-billed Grebe .....	9
Horned Grebe .....	3
Eared Grebe .....	1
Western Grebe .....	1
White Pelican .....	2*
Double-crested Cormorant .....	5
Great Egret .....	6
Snowy Egret .....	9
Black-crowned Night Heron .....	5
Canada Goose .....	35*
Mallard .....	21
Northern Pintail .....	25
American Wigeon .....	9
Canvasback .....	21
Redhead .....	1
Ring-necked Duck .....	1
Lesser Scaup .....	65
Common Goldeneye .....	55
Barrow's Goldeneye .....	7
Bufflehead .....	21
Ruddy Duck .....	125
Turkey Vulture .....	1
American Kestrel .....	1
American Coot .....	70
Least Sandpiper .....	19
Spotted Sandpiper .....	1
Killdeer .....	7
Bonaparte's Gull .....	1
Mew Gull .....	9
Ring-billed Gull .....	63
Western Gull .....	15
Glaucous-winged Gull .....	5
Rock Dove .....	11
Mourning Dove .....	2
Scrub Jay .....	2
Chestnut-backed Chickadee .....	5
Bushtit .....	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	1
American Robin .....	7
European Starling .....	11
Yellow Warbler .....	1
Townsend's Warbler .....	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	7
White-crowned Sparrow .....	9
Red-winged Blackbird .....	6

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Brewer's Blackbird	25
Brown-headed Cowbird	13
House Finch	7
House Sparrow	11

\*resident birds.

Field trip reports are published for their interest as such and as an enticement to encourage your participation. Our field trips are open to members and friends and a special welcome is extended to inexperienced birders.

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Sunday, Feb. 11**—Lake Merritt, Oakland.

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir.

For details on the above, see *The GULL* for January.

**Saturday, Feb. 17**—Panoche Valley. Meet at 8 a.m. at the reservoir on Hwy. 25 one quarter mile south of the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and warm clothes. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank before starting, and carpool from the Bay Area if possible. (Many participants stay over in Los Banos and join the Sunday field trip.) Leader: Chris Carpenter (268-7509). (✓)

**Sunday, Feb. 18**—Los Banos State Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the refuge headquarters located three miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. Allow two and one-half to three hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank before starting, and carpool if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes,

Bald Eagles and assorted waterfowl. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). \$ (✓)

**Sunday, March 4**—Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip. See *The GULL* for January page 10) for details.

**Saturday/Sunday, March 10/11**—Honey Lake. Call for detailed directions. Trip will be limited to 20 participants. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is also available. Be sure to bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and a scope if you have one. We should see Sage Grouse, Bald Eagles, and other birds of the Eastern Sierra. Leader: Bob Hirt (408-446-4478). (✓)

**Sunday, March 11**—Tennessee Cove. This will be a two mile walk to Tennessee Cove, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to look for land and shorebirds, including White-throated Swifts. From San Francisco take Hwy. 1 toward Mill Valley and Stinson Beach. In about one quarter mile turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd. Meet at the end of the road at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020, work)

**Wednesday, March 14**—Mini-trip to Mitchell Canyon. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Go approximately 8 miles, then turn right onto Clayton Rd. Go one mile and make a right onto Mitchell Canyon Rd. and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the road. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds. Wear shoes suitable for walking in mud, and bring your lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Saturday, March 17**—San Francisco Bird Blitz. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983). See next issue of *The GULL* for details.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and

other sites that require an entrance fee.

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

**Problems:** If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## OBSERVATIONS

### November 29 through December 28

It is too early to tell the effects of the driest December in 113 years on our local bird populations. It did mean, however, that clear, dry weather prevailed for all the local Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), and participants couldn't use poor weather as an excuse for not participating. Of the several counts I took part in or heard of, species' numbers were either high or a new record for that count.

#### Waterbirds

A Black-vented Shearwater was seen from Pebble Beach Dec. 24 (PJM). Wintering Cattle Egret were; one at Seal Rocks in San Francisco Dec. 2 (JM), five at Santa Rosa Sewage Ponds Dec. 10 (DN, RoM), and three near Shaef-fer Rd, Santa Cruz Co. Dec. 16 (ELb).

Small numbers of Tundra Swans visited local wet areas (hard to find this fall): the largest group was ten at Calaveras Reservoir Dec. 6 (MO'B). Seven Ross' Geese were at Santa Rosa Sewage Ponds Dec. 10 (DN, RoM). A "Eurasian" Teal was cavorting with a large flock of Green-winged Teal at Sunnyvale Sewage Ponds Dec. 22 (PJM). the **King Eider**, an eclipse second year male, was still being seen off New Willows in Drake's Bay through Dec. 28 (mob). In addition to the Harlequin Ducks seen last month at Bolinas Lagoon and Candlestick Pt. one was spotted at the Fish Docks Dec. 16-17 (MiF, MFe). The Oldsquaw at Princeton Harbor was still there through

Dec. 16 (PJM). An Oldsquaw, found Nov. 28 in Bodega Bay (JMR), remained through the period (AD, DWm, NTC). Another was discovered at Abbott's Lagoon on CBC day, Dec. 16 (fide DWm), and two were at the Fish Docks Dec. 22 (JEP), one still being seen Dec. 28 (LJP).

An adult Broad-winged Hawk was found at Grand View Park for San Francisco's CBC, Dec. 28 (JKe). One Lesser Golden-Plover was near Wave Crest Road, half Moon Bay, Dec. 16-22 (AKr, GD). Another, described as a *fulva* was at Hunters Point Dec. 28 (DnB). Forty Mountain Plover returned to a traditional wintering spot, Panoche Valley, Dec. 2 (DSg). Up to three Rock Sandpipers were at Princeton Harbor jetty through Dec. 16 (DEQ, PJM), and the Pebble Beach Rock Sandpiper was being seen through Dec. 24 (JM).

Pomarine Jaegers seen from shore were; one at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 27 (PB) one from Pebble Beach Dec. 24 (PJM), and one from Ocean Beach Dec. 28 (JM, *et al.*). One dark morph Parasitic Jaeger was viewed from the Cliff House Dec. 28 (RS). A Franklin's Gull visited Santa Rosa Sewage Ponds Dec. 9-10 (RoM, DN). A Glaucous Gull was discovered at Lawson's Landing Dec. 19 (RS). An oiled Black-legged Kittiwake was seen at Princeton Harbor Dec. 18 (GP), and another was found off Spud Pt., Bodega Bay Dec. 28 (NTC).

A high number of Marbled Murrelets was sixty-four noted off Francis Beach Dec. 16 (PJM). Ancient Murrelets were found along the coast during the period, the highest number being thirty-five off Francis Beach Dec. 16 (PJM).

#### Landbirds

The Pine Gulch Creek Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was still present through the period (South Marin CBC Dec. 30—RMS), and another off Gate's Canyon

Road, Solano Co. Dec. 4 was considered the same bird as one at that location last year (MBG). A Pileated Woodpecker found in Redwood Regional Park Dec. 17 (Oakland CBC) (*fide* DPM), follows two previous sightings in the same area April 2-3, 1988. Wouldn't it be nice to find this beautiful woodpecker species expanding its range into the Oakland Hills? A Least Flycatcher loitered at Olema Marsh Dec. 16-27 (RS, KH, JEP). A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** was calling at Sigmund Stern Grove, Dec. 28-29 (DPM, DSg)—a nice present for the San Francisco CBC.

A Mountain Chickadee at the summit of Mt. St. Helena Dec. 2 (BDP), was a first county record for Sonoma. A lingering House Wren was found at Albany Hill Dec. 17 (JM), and another was on Mt. Diablo Dec. 19 (GFi).

Two Townsend's Solitaires were in our area this period: one atop Mt. St. Helena Dec. 2 (BDP), and one in Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo, Dec. 19 (GFi). One Sage Thrasher remained in the Little Panoche Road area through Dec. 4 (DSg), and one was seen along Patterson Pass Road Nov. 27-Dec. 2 (GFi, RKo). The Bendire's Thrasher persisted at Jahant Road, Lodi, through the period (TCo). A Wagtail, either **White** or **Black-backed**, found at Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz Co., Dec. 3 (JWr), continued to be seen through Dec. 11 (GLe, RKo, MiF).

Two Tennessee Warblers lingered in our area: one at Olema Marsh Dec. 16 (RS, *fide* DWm), and one at Lobos Creek in the Presidio Dec. 28 (RS). Wintering Orange-crowned, Nashville, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers, were found throughout the area in small numbers (mob). Twelve Palm Warblers were scattered through the area during the period (mob). The Black-and white Warbler at Stinson Beach State Park remained at least through Dec. 4 (MRo),

and one at Pine Gulch Creek was still there Dec. 26 (JEP, THK). Also, a Black-and-white Warbler was discovered near Lake Anza in Tilden Park Dec. 24 (JPo). An adult male American Redstart continued to be seen at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park through Dec. 17 (JM, SCx). A Northern Waterthrush lurked in a small marsh near Cal Expo, Sacramento Co., Dec. 213 (DGY). A Western Tanager was found at Sigmund Stern Grove for the San Francisco CBC Dec. 28 (DPM).

A few Sharp-tailed Sparrows and up to eighteen Swamp Sparrows continued to be found in marshy places throughout the area during the period (mob). About forty White-throated Sparrows were discovered during the period, not all at residential feeders (mob). Think of all the ones we weren't told about! A Harris' Sparrow, found at a Bolinas residence Nov. 28 (BHe), remained through the period (*fide* DSi). At Pt. Reyes, Spaletta Plateau had one Lapland Longspur Dec. 22 (JEP), and Hall Ranch had six Dec. 27 (JEP, BDP).

A Hooded Oriole was at Henry Cowell Redwood State Park Dec. 19 (MiF), and a female Northern Oriole, Bullock's type, visited the Palo Alto Golf Course Dec. 8-18 (PJM). One female Cassin's Finch was seen at Mt. Diablo Dec. 3 (KGH, *fide* RJR). Some Red Crossbills were at Middle Lake Dec. 10 (KP). A female Evening Grosbeak was found at Laurel Drive, Menlo Park Dec. 2 (PJM).

**Observers:** Dennis Beall (DnB), Paul Buckley, Betty Burridge, Terry Colborn (TCo), Nancy T. Conzett, Scott Cox (SCx), Gary Deghi, Ann Dewart, Mike Feighner (MiF), Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger (GFi), Alexander Gaugine, Philip E. Gordon, Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Burr Heneman (BHe), Kevin G. Hinsa, Bob Hirt, Alan S. Hopkins, George

Hugenberg, John Keene (JKe), Dan Keller, Ted H. Koundakjian, Richard Kovak (RKo), Andy Kratter (AKr), Michael Larkin, Earl Lebow (ELb), George Ledec, Bill Lenarz, Robin Leong, Roger Marlowe (RoM), Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical, Daniel P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Matt O'Brien, George Page, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Katy Phillips, John Poole (JPo), Lina J. Prairie, Dave E. Quady, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Mike Rogers (MRo), Catherine Rotanzi, Ken Salzman, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Dan Singer (DSg), Scott Smithson, Chris Spooner, Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, John Wariner (JWr), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor  
2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

## SANDERLINGS AND SNOWY PLOVERS

An annual update on the Sanderling Project is in hand. It requests help with a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service supporting threatened species status for the Snowy Plover. Habitat loss along the Pacific Coast has been dramatic, and without protection the loss will continue and the species will no longer breed in its previous haunts. One critical area that needs protection from development is the north spit of Coos Bay. Send your letters (with copies to Congress) to: John Turner, Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington DC 20240.

Reports of Sanderlings seen with bands (red, white, green, orange, yellow, and blue) should be made to the Project, Bodega Marine Laboratory, PO Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

The color combination, and left or right leg, should be specified. A bird may have as many as three bands on one leg.

## BACK YARD BIRDER

Believe it, or not, there is such a thing as etiquette for birders. As a group, we've been the object of a lot of jokes. Because of the upsurge of interest in the sport, we should remember to use common sense lest we be denied access to areas of good birding. There are a few rude birders, but the majority are responsible and try to check those who aren't thinking clearly. When in hot pursuit of a special bird, try to curb any tendencies to ruffle the public's feathers.

- Do not trespass on private property. Respect the owner's privacy and ask permission to enter.
- Leave all gates, etc., as you found them.
- Stay on roads and paths.
- Don't disturb livestock.
- Do not litter.
- Respect other life forms (e.g. don't flush birds or approach too closely to active nests and don't disturb breeding birds with tape recordings).
- Respect other birders and naturalists by keeping quiet, leaving your dog at home and not slamming car doors.

I just came across an interesting tidbit. I'd always assumed that birders talked little and in soft voices so they wouldn't disturb the birds. Humans with normal hearing detect sounds between 20 and 17,000 cycles per second. Birds' hearing range is between 34 and 29,000 c.p.s. The range for any individual bird species is significantly less than ours. We hear about 9 octaves and birds average about 5. Actually, birds tend to hear in about the same range as the sounds they make. So, many songbirds can sing and hear at a much higher frequency than we are capable of hearing. These same birds miss

several lower octaves that we humans can easily hear. They cannot hear the relatively low frequency human voice. The birders are really bothering each other more than harassing the birds! The main reason to keep chatting to a minimum is that good birders rely on their hearing to help them find the birds.

Next time you're in the field, remember to use common sense so we can hold our heads high (looking for eagles?).

—MEG PAULETICH

## SECOND ANNUAL BIRDING SAIL

The second Ocean Alliance/Audubon Society Birding Sail will be Saturday, March 3, 1990. Guests will be assigned to boats with experienced Ocean Alliance skippers. Boats will leave at approximately 9 a.m. from various locations around the Bay (Marin, East Bay and South Bay), and return at approximately 6 p.m. that evening. A raftup and pot luck lunch will be held at Treasure Island, and awards will be given to the boat spotting the greatest number of bird species. (Last year's winner spotted 47 different species!)

The cost of the sail is \$15 for Ocean Alliance members and \$20 for non-members. Persons selected as birding docents will not be charged.

If you would like to attend as a guest or if you would like to share your knowledge of pelagic birds, please call the Ocean Alliance (415) 441-5970 or write to them at Fort Mason Center, Building E, San Francisco, CA 94123. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

It is suggested that you wear warm, layered clothing, bring appropriate white-soled or foul weather duck shoes, binoculars, snacks, and a dish for the pot luck lunch.

## GROWTH *(continued from p. 17)*

On the Mexican border, on Audubon's research ranch, I saw the strands of barbed wire that keep the flood of cattle off the property. On one side you have what Arizona used to be, lands rich in wildlife where the grass has come back after twenty years, and on the other side—the overgrazed side—is absolute desolation.

Many naive people think that this desolation represents the natural state of the western United States. It always stuns me that people driving through the West think it is so beautiful. In many ways it is, but it is a beautiful desolation, the remnant of a once-richer system after 100 years of overgrazing. It is visually attractive, but it is not going to support many people or much wildlife. I'm sure you could farm antelopes very nicely in Arizona if you let the lands come back. You would probably get a better yield and better meat than you can ever get from scrawny cows.

In Arizona roughly 1,000 people with political influence, mostly historically based, are destroying the environment of the state by running cattle. What does Arizona get out of it? What does the United States get out of it? There is no benefit from it whatsoever, except for a very small group of people.

The four most arid states in the union supply 1/10 of 1 percent of our beef. The entire West produces something like 2 or 3 percent of our beef. The vegetation is eaten up and broken down, which causes the streams to flow irregularly all year; and when they are flowing, they are dirty. Anglers, campers and municipalities get the short end of the stick. This is being done at public expense.

The average rancher thinks of himself as an independent person, but actually he's on federal welfare. Most of them

run cows on publicland at a tiny fraction of the cost of grazing private lands. Grazing, along with logging and mining, gives us the famous U.S. Forest Service policy of "land of many abuses," and the Bureau of Livestock and Mining (BLM) pitches in too. The rights of 99.9 percent of Arizonans and other westerners are being trampled.

Insult is added to injury: your tax money goes to hire people to go out and blow away your wildlife. God forbid that a predator should come along and eat one of the cows being raised on welfare at public expense. American cows cannot be eaten by anyone but another human being, who may get heart disease as a result.

This illustrates one of the most serious political problems we have in the United States. Easterners couldn't care less what happens in western states, and their senators trade votes. They'll support subsidizing ranchers in return for votes for their own boondoggles. This is a situation that requires a lot of citizen action; restoring the wonderful grasslands of the Southwest would be a good thing for the entire United States. When you get home, write a letter to your senator not to trade any more votes with those guys out west to continue ranchers on welfare.

Basically, grazing in the arid West should cease or at least be made **much** less intense. Many of our problems are relatively intractable, very difficult to deal with. Here is a tremendous problem that can be solved by simply changing the ways of 13,000 people. It might be worthwhile simply buying them out. It would make money for everybody in the country in the long run. If each was given a million dollars, on the average, it would cost less than the program to build the useless Stealth bomber.

Now let's look at one of the tough problems. I'll start with the population problem for a couple of reasons. It is

very basic and turning it around humanely will take a long time. Moreover, solving the population problem will only buy you a ticket to start solving other problems; it won't solve them in itself.

What is the problem? Four million years ago, the first human beings were the australopithecines, small upright relatives of Lucy. For most of those four million years, the human population remained very small. In the last few centuries, it has been expanding more and more rapidly. The population reached two billion on May 29, 1932 (by pure coincidence, I was the two-billionth human being). When *The Population Bomb* was written in 1968, there were 3.5 billion human beings; the population was increasing by about 70 million each year. Now there are almost 5.3 billion, and about 93 million are being added each year. Since 1968, more people have been added to the population than existed on the planet at the time of the American Civil War. Each year we add the population equivalent of England, Ireland, Iceland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. In less than three years we add the equivalent of the United States.

There are really two kinds of population situations. The first is found in poor nations. Their populations are growing extremely fast; more than 2 or 3 percent a year. Kenya is the leader for the moment, growing by about 4 percent a year. There is no way to get out of poverty with those birthrates, because the nation cannot put aside capital to improve the standard of living of the average person. In Kenya the average family size is seven children. The men lie around and argue with each other all day about how to divide their farms among their sons. The women do all the housework, all the farm work, walk miles and miles to find firewood, and

so forth. By empowering women, you can do more for the population problem in poor nations than any other way.

On the other hand, the United States is the most overpopulated nation in the world, because of the disproportionate amount of damage each of us does. The birth of the average baby in the United States is between 40 and 200 times as great an environmental disaster as the birth of a baby in Bangladesh, Columbia, Peru or any poor country. There is a little equation with which you can calculate the impact of a nation on the environment:  $I = PAT$ . Impact (I) equals the number of People (P), times their average per-capita consumption or Affluence (A), times the damage caused by the Technology (T) that is used to supply each unit of affluence. Standard of living is not a good measure of impact. For example, the Swedes have a higher standard of living and quality of life than Americans while using only 60 percent of the per-capita energy that we do. They are much more efficient at using energy—that is, they have a lower “T.” Per capita commercial energy consumption is actually a very good index of each individual’s impact. Indeed it is the best national statistic for estimating the product of AxT. For instance, the fossil fuels burned in the rich countries are producing carbon dioxide and are the chief cause of the global warming problem. With population growth, the poor countries tend to get poorer; the overpopulation of rich countries simply destroys the planet.

And we’re way behind most of the world on the population issue. Most poor countries have a population policy. The United States Congress is trying to formulate an immigration policy without having any population policy. It is like asking an airplane designer to design a plane onto which you can load 30 passengers per minute, but not to worry about its total passenger capacity.

We’ve been going backwards for over eight years on population policy.

What will happen to the world when less-developed countries do develop? Suppose that the Chinese managed to stop population growth at 1.1 or 1.2 billion people. (The Chinese could be underestimating their population; it may already be 1.2 billion.) Also assume that they scaled back their plans for development and only doubled their per-capita energy consumption from 7 percent to 14 percent of the per capita consumption of the people in this room. Suppose further that they used their enormous coal supplies to achieve that increase. If the Chinese made this sacrifice, stopping development at the level of Algeria’s today, they would nevertheless be putting more additional carbon dioxide into the air than the United States could take out by giving up *all* use of coal and not substituting any other fossil fuel. Giving up coal in this country is a non-trivial exercise; coal now supplies 23.5 percent of our commercial energy.

Suppose that India got its population program going again. There are 835 million Indians now, with a family size of 4.3. Suppose that over the next 30 to 40 years they can bring their average family size down to 2.2, which is replacement reproduction. That would be a stunning achievement for such a diverse country as India. India has a lot of coal too, but suppose also that they were more self-sacrificing than the Chinese and limited their development to the energy consumption level the Chinese have today. They would thus increase per-capita energy consumption in India from 3 percent up to 7 percent of today’s U.S. per-capita consumption. (Yes, it now takes 33 Indians to match one of us in energy consumption.) Then India also would be putting out more additional carbon dioxide than the United States could save by giving up

coal. Of course, we would already have sacrificed our coal use of the Chinese, so we would be hard-pressed to accommodate India. There is so much momentum built into India's population growth that, playing out the optimistic scenario of great success in family planning, India's population would not top out for another century, when there would be two billion Indians.

The example of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas shows very clearly the enormous role that population size and growth play in shaping the human dilemma. Even with optimistic assumptions about curbing growth, the huge numbers of people in poor countries, multiplied by modest levels of development, can help bring on catastrophe. The CO<sub>2</sub> situation also highlights the compensating changes that developed countries will have to make if poor countries are to be able to increase their use of fossil fuels.

We maintain a population of 5.3 billion persons today only by burning our inheritance from the planet. In evolutionary terms, we are using the fossil fuels and high-grade mineral ores in the blink of an eye. But those are relatively trivial. There are three critical parts of our inheritance, our "capital" whose use will doom us in the next few decades, if we do not act. But most people don't even recognize them as capital.

One part of our inheritance is deep rich agricultural soils, which we are losing at a horrendous rate—the equivalent of the topsoil on all the wheatlands of Australia disappearing every year. Most soils require centuries or millennia to replace an inch; we allow it to wash away or blow away in as little as a decade.

A second component of capital is the ice-age-waters that are collected in underground aquifers. For instance, the southern part of the Ogallala aquifer is

being pumped out and lowered by many feet a year, where the recharge rate is a fraction of an inch a year. It is going to be very interesting, as global warming progresses here in Arizona, where they love to have beautiful resorts with swimming pools that make waves and numerous fountains and waterfalls, all based on underground water and on river flows (especially that of the Colorado) that are likely to diminish.

Finally, of course, is biodiversity. All those little critters out there, the non-human animals, the plants and the micro-organisms are all working parts of the eco-systems that support our economic system and, through our economic system, us. As that support is increasingly undermined, the economic system will start to collapse, and we will move towards catastrophe. We are now facing the greatest extinction episode, certainly, since that at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, which wiped out the dinosaurs and many other groups 65 million years ago. The rate of regeneration of biodiversity is measured in millions of years.

Basically, we are squandering our inheritance, and economists are calling it "growth." Edward Abbey's message was very eloquent; they don't seem to understand that "perpetual growth is the creed of the cancer cell." Even a 0.2 percent economic growth rate is disastrously high in the long run. It is not remotely possible to double the size of the human population and quintuple the size of the economy, as some people believe will happen.

The food situation alone is especially worrisome. A recent study at Brown University asked how many people could be fed with the record harvests of 1985 if everybody were vegetarian; if food were divided rather equally among all and no grain were fed to animals. The answer was some 6 billion. That's pretty good, we have 5.3

billion now, so we have a long way to go, right? 'Cause everybody is moving to equal distribution, we are not going to feed any more cattle on grain, and we're all going to become vegetarians! Unfortunately, the global harvest in 1988 was 10 percent smaller than in 1985.

A South American diet from the 1985 harvest, with 15 percent of calories of animal origin, could be fed to only 4 billion people. About 1.3 billion would have to disappear right now. A North American diet could be supplied to 2.5 billion, which means that more than half the world would disappear.

Every year the farmers are trying to feed 93 million more people, and they've got to do it with 26 million tons less top-soil, and of course, trillions of gallons less ground water. That's the food situation without climate change.

There is, sadly, about a 70 percent chance that we'll see a rise of 2 or 3 or 4 degrees Celsius over the next century, and this will cause dramatic changes in climate. The best evidence suggest more rainfall on the planet as a whole, but a drying in the continental interiors in the mid-latitudes, which is where our food is grown. Computer models at Stanford have predicted the possible consequences of weather events that damage agriculture about twice as much as the droughts in 1988. Making optimistic assumptions about food production in years with good weather, and assuming about every third year will have bad weather, about twice a decade there will be famines in which somewhere between 40 million and 400 million people starve to death. If you think the social system of the world can stand up to that, particularly when everybody is getting armed with nuclear weapons, you are a bigger optimist than I.

What can we do about this less-than-cheerful picture besides drinking a lot?

We should set a goal of shrinking the world's population as rapidly as possible. Once we halt growth and start

downward, we have at least a century to debate where to stop shrinking. Halting growth will be hard to do, especially in the less-developed countries, many of which have 45 percent or more of their people under the age of 15—future parents. Even if they have small families, those populations will continue to grow for a long time.

The best way to halt growth in poor countries is to educate women, give them better health care, give them better opportunities, and get social security systems in place. The rich countries have plenty of resources they can divert to helping the poor control their populations and develop in ecologically sound ways—if they wish to. If they don't wish to, then they will pay a very high price. For instance, carbon dioxide molecules and methane molecules don't know any borders. Our fates are tied to those poor nations, and we are not giving the help we should be giving.

And so we must work on the P [population] factor, and the A [affluence] and T [technology] factors as well.

We must move toward much more efficient energy use. That can increase the quality of American life. Besides developing more energy-efficient technologies, we need to reorganize our economy and replan our cities. For example, they could be planned so that more people could walk or bicycle to work.

If the climatologists are correct, it is virtually impossible to stop the global warming for a very long time, as a result of greenhouse gases already added to the atmosphere. But it is possible and critically important to slow down the rate of greenhouse gas buildup. If it is slowed down, Tucson people will have time to move away before the water runs out. Farmers can change crops and cultivation techniques more gradually; they can get used to constant climate instability.

One of the best ways to slow down

the warming, besides moving toward energy efficiency, is to plant lots of trees, which "eat" carbon dioxide and store the carbon in their wood. We need to establish sustainable forestry in the Northwest, where they're now cutting the forests down as fast as they can. Unhappy loggers curse the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, but they don't see that, at current rates of destruction, they will soon be out of business anyhow.

We are all involved in this disaster. It isn't just ranchers, or timber people, or Exxon executives; we all play in this game. When we decide to rearrange our society, it's got to be done with great care for the people who are going to be hurt. The finger is pointing at all of us. We all have to participate, if only to pay taxes to help other people out. There are lots of things we can do. If we do them, we have to do them with a spirit of cooperation. Not only must we cooperate with each other, but with people of other nations, because these are global problems. The examples of energy development in China and India underline this.

Humanity is thus in a rather interesting position. We will have to live as the great religious traditions have always said we should. We have to learn to turn the other cheek. We must work to stamp out racism, sexism, religious prejudice and xenophobia.

My suggestion to you is, first of all, don't believe a word I've said. I could be a paid agent of the Audubon Green Conspiracy. Check up on me. Everything I have said is easily verifiable in the open literature, UN statistics, Population Reference Bureau data, and so on. Spend part of your time becoming well informed. Don't listen to talking heads, particularly on television. Choose the area where you want to work to make society a better place. Put at least 10 percent of your time into it—

that is, tithe to your society. If you are really into birds, you had better get into the fight. Many species of birds will disappear. I'll end with a quote from Ken Brower, Dave Brower's son, about the California Condor. "When the vultures watching your civilization start dropping dead, it's time to pause and wonder."

Thank you!

## **BUSH BETRAYS ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA**

When running, George Bush vowed to be the "environmental President" and made wetlands protection one of the cornerstones of his environmental campaign. Once elected he gave a stirring speech to Ducks Unlimited that promised that there would be no net loss of wetlands. In a magazine article, he was quoted as saying "My position on wetlands is straightforward. All existing wetlands, no matter how small, should be preserved."

It was shocking and dismaying to see these brave vows dissolve in the face of political pressure. What happened?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulates the filling (i.e. destruction) of wetlands by issuing or denying permits. The EPA has overall veto authority over wetland fills and can thus veto Corps decisions. In mid-1989 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA signed a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) concerning their wetlands policies. The two agencies for the first time formally acknowledged a "no net loss of wetlands" goal. The MOA also strengthened critical wetlands protection elements of current regulations. At last, we had reason to hope that there would be a new and more effective wetlands protection orientation in these two agencies. **However, in mid-December the Bush administration**

**suspended and postponed the MOA** for at least thirty days, perhaps indefinitely. This shameful action was taken as result of pressures exerted by the oil industry and by Alaskan politicians.

We hope that this retreat on President Bush's part does not give these two agencies the idea that wetlands protection is no longer a desirable goal, but who can tell? Unless President Bush rescinds his order these agencies will not be getting a clear message from their Chief Executive. (Perhaps their message will be all too clear-a laissez-faire policy on wetlands, the opposite of what the President pledged).

Please help us rectify this terrible situation. Please write President Bush and remind him that if he is to be an environmental President he will have to make hard decisions and stick by them. Please tell him that by suspending the MOA he will be giving his agencies a message that is the direct opposite of what he has pledged over and over again. **Please write President Bush and ask him to reinstate the MOA between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. Your letters really do make a difference.** The address is: President George Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

## WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF JAPAN

Copies of an attractive publication of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, *SANCTUARY*, have been received. It is handsomely presented, and interestingly, contains a note crediting support from the Public Benefits Promotion Fund of the Japan Motorcycle Racing Organization. Sub-titled "For Coexistence of Wildlife and Human Beings", it begins with a note:

"Over the past 400 years, humankind has consigned to oblivion 150 species of

birds. By the end of this century . . . in ten more years . . . it is expected that three times that number, 400 to 500 species of birds will be threatened with extinction. These birds are driven from this world without being able to utter a single word of reproach against humankind.

"The Wild Bird Society of Japan is a nature conservation organization which was established in 1934, at a time when the word 'bird' inevitably meant 'caged bird'. The WBSJ has based its activities on the concept of 'wild birds in their wild habitat', declaring that it is precisely the sight of birds living in the midst of nature that is really beautiful and to be cherished."

It is significant that their efforts to establish sanctuaries are hampered by special conditions. "In the United States and Europe, holding title to the land is apparently considered a condition for the establishment of a sanctuary. This is because the strongest means for holding off environmentally destructive pressures is to have title to the land itself. This also holds true for Japan, but in this country prices are generally very high, land titles fractionalized, and landowners often passionately attached to their land, and it is nearly impossible for a new owner to obtain a large parcel of land. To hold title to land is ideal, and we think every effort should be made to realize that ideal, but it is probably not realistic to stick to the principle of owning the land. Leasing the land, obtaining a contract for the use of the land, or establishing conditions for its use under a memorandum contract are methods which should also be feasible. Lake Utonai Sanctuary is held under a contract for use of the land and memorandum contract (for city lands); the Tsurui-Ito Tancho Sanctuary is held with some land owned by the Wild Bird Society of Japan and some under a memorandum contract (for private lands); and the KEEP

Kiyosato Sanctuary is leased from the prefecture. However, it must be borne in mind that in order to retain cooperation and understanding of land owners and to maintain a place as a sanctuary under pressure and without the support of land title, it is necessary to continually apply a tremendous amount of manpower to the problem even after the sanctuary has been set up."

"It was far from easy for a small nature conservation group like ours to make the decision to undertake a sanctuary movement, but in the course of the campaign, a step has been taken in a new direction. This is the trend of sanctuaries being established by local public entities." The pamphlet lists seven such sanctuaries presently established, five in which the WBSJ has been involved in the

survey, in planning, and in management, and two in which it is managing the sanctuary.

## COME SPREAD THE WORD

Opportunity knocks again for volunteers to staff our booth at the *San Francisco Chronicle Great Outdoors Fair*, held at the Concourse Building, corner of 8th and Brannan Sts. The dates are Friday, March 2 beginning at noon through the evening, Saturday, March 3 morning through afternoon. We would like members to volunteer for three hour shifts during one of those days. Entrance to the Fair is free for volunteers and will give you the opportunity to help GGAS and enjoy the Fair all at one time. Please call the office, 843-2222, for more information and to sign up.

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

## WILDLIFE PASS FOR 1990

You can buy your California Wildlife Pass, native Species Stamp and even a subscription to Outdoor California, Fish and Game's beautiful magazine, at the GGAS office. These are all part of a campaign to save California's wildlife through active public participation in Fish and Game programs and ecological reserves. Your Wildlife Pass entitles you to year-round entry into the Department's managed areas. The cost is \$10.00. The native Species Stamp is \$8.00 and helps protect and save endangered habitats throughout the state. A subscription to Outdoor California is \$5.00. Stop by our office and SAVE OUR WILD PLACES!

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

### ACR PUBLIC SEASON FOR 1990

This year ACR will be open to the public from March 17 through July 16. Though it seems early, it might be a good idea to plan ahead if you wish to join other Auduboners in hosting at the Ranch. This is a great way to get to know ACR, meet other people interested in birding and natural history and help introduce our sanctuary to the general public.

Golden Gate Audubon members will host on each weekend of April and on July 14 and 15. You can volunteer by calling the office at 843-2222. If you wish to volunteer, but can't make it on those dates, please call the Ranch at (415) 868-9244. Nancy Angelesco will be happy to place you on our schedule.

### MARIN EAGLES

The immature Golden Eagle which harassed the herons and egrets at ACR last spring was seen from time to time through the remainder of the year. Last season it was thought to be responsible for the loss of as many as 6 young herons. It may also have been responsible for the reduction of 11 breeding pairs of Great Egrets from the previous year's number. What, if any, the Golden Eagle's impact

will be this season remains to be seen.

Bald Eagles pose a potential threat to our nesting herons and egrets as well. Plans are underway to introduce Bald Eagles from British Columbia to the Point Reyes Peninsula. There is some evidence that herons and egrets could be impacted by these eagles. There is also the possibility that Bald Eagles from B.C., which are larger than eagles from our latitude, could negatively impact native eagle populations. To complicate matters more, there is no evidence Bald Eagles ever inhabited the Point Reyes area. What their impact might be will most probably be considered in an environment assessment of some kind. ACR is in the lead of concerned environmental organizations in questioning the wisdom of introducing Bald Eagles to Point Reyes. In a more positive vein, as this column goes to press we have received information that the introduction plans have been postponed. You will no doubt hear more about this issue.

### REMINDERS

**Ranch Guides Training (Feb. 10-Mar. 24)**—Check *The GULL* for January for details on our Ranch Guides training program. Taught by ACR biologist Ray Peterson, this brief program will enable you to help ACR educate Ranch visitors during our public season. You must register in advance, so call the ranch.

**Estate Planning (Feb. 2, 17, Mar. 3)**

Check *The GULL* for January for details about "Estate Planning Seminar on the use of Living Trusts". Plan to attend a two hour seminar at Volunteer Canyon, the Marin Art and Garden Center, or at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. For more information call (415) 868-9244.

—DAN MURPHY

### GOOD RESEARCH

Presidio survey underway, desperately needs a data entry person. Please call 751-0197.



**Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.**

**Office: 843-2222**

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**Update: 524-5592**

**Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.**

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

**The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.**

**The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.**